

COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE
Agency Involvement/Oversight
Sub-Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 12, 2014 (12 noon)

888-494-4032

Access code: 6552044636

- I. Welcome**
Kimberly Wasserman – Chairman, EJ Commission
- II. Introductions**
A. Teleconference
- Kim Wasserman, LVEJO
 - Kate Tomford, DCEO
 - Joe Mitchell, IDPH
 - Gloria Williams, DNR
 - Doris Turner, IDPH
 - Bola Delano, IDOT
 - Alec Messina, IERG
 - Ken Page, IEPA
 - Chris Pressnall, IEPA
 - Sharonda Williams, IEPA
- III. Approval of Agenda**
Motion- Alec Messina
Second- Kate Tomford
Motion Carried
- IV. Approval of Minutes**
A. February 26, 2014 (Agency EJ Templates attached)
Motion- Doris Turner
Second- Alec Messina
Motion Carried
- V. Old Business**
A. Election of sub-committee chairperson
- Kim Wasserman will be reaching out to someone in particular after this call to discuss the sub-committee chairperson position.

B. Continue review of EJ Templates from state agencies

- Wasserman, LVEJO- Per Sharonda's suggestion we want to share the environmental justice questionnaires with the full Commission and make sure that we get community perspective and feedback.
- Page, IEPA- The environmental justice questionnaires are attached to the minutes and will be put on the website once they are approved. I will send a link.
- Wasserman, LVEJO- I want to ensure that we have more than agencies vetting this process. We want to get feedback from other non-agency Commissioners outside of myself and Dr. Washington.
- Page- I will send the environmental justice questionnaires out to the full Commission and then separately to the community representatives.
- Tomford, DCEO- Please send communications to everyone so we can all share in that information regardless. It seems redundant and it takes the other Commissioners out of the conversation.
- Messina- I agree with Kate
- Page, IEPA- I will send to full commission for review.
- Wasserman, LVEJO- Does it make sense to tackle each of these individually or address at large. What is the best way to facilitate specific points?
- Tomford, DCEO- Prior to doing an individual assessment I think we should look at what the ideal response would look like. DCEO is probably not fulfilling their optimal environmental justice goals. What objectives are we working towards over time?
- Tomford, DCEO- To get down to programming level might be too difficult. Seeing environmental justice at the general agency level would be useful.
- Williams, DNR- Would be good to pinpoint overall role of DNR and how we can look at this issue.
- Wasserman, LVEJO- Would it make sense to pull out common themes from the questionnaires and look at strengths that can be built upon.
- Tomford, DCEO- It would be useful to look at practices in place and get the community perspective on what they find currently valuable.
- Wasserman, LVEJO- Having a template that agencies can look at as they are thinking about environmental justice in general would be useful.
- Page, IEPA- There were opportunities identified within other agencies. Look at programs that state agencies have and how it can be utilized in the environmental justice discussion. Whether there are opportunities for when we are doing environmental justice assessment and determining how Department of Public Health can assist us and they do. There will be areas identified that work well with environmental justice.

- Wasserman, LVEJO- I can schedule a meeting with community groups to get feedback.
- Tomford, DCEO- Would feedback get to us by the full Commission?
- Wasserman, LVEJO- We will provide a summary of where the subcommittee is and what is next to the full Commission. I will schedule the feedback community group meeting at the next full Commission meeting. I want to schedule that meeting within a week of the full Commission meeting. There will be a two week turn-around from March 20, 2014.
- Page, IEPA- Should questions from full Commission come to me? As state agencies we realize that we don't always have the answers and it may take time to get those answers.
- Wasserman, LVEJO- Please send out one list of questions.
- Page, IEPA- I will request review of environmental justice questionnaires and solicit questions from them. Whatever other questions arise about the environmental justice questionnaire will come to me and I will outline which agency the question is for.
- Delano, IDOT- What is the objective of going back and forth with the questionnaires?
- Page, IEPA- We wanted to get better participation from the other Commissioners so we are sharing the environmental justice questionnaires with the full Commissioner for feedback.
- Delano, IDOT- So we aren't just giving them the questionnaires for informational purposes? I am just trying to see how effective we can be. What is the next step to coordinate efforts and address environmental justice?
- Tomford, DCEO- What is the goal for agencies as they try to set in place environmental justice policies?
- Wasserman, LVEJO- There is no ideal. We want to make sure we are capturing personal experiences from the work happening in communities and determine how agencies can facilitate that process. Where are there spaces for environmental justice and how can opportunities be implemented on a base level. We want to meet the agencies half-way and make sure it is something that you can do based on where you are currently.
- Messina, IERG- Lots of people had suggestions of what they want to see from the agencies. One example is an environmental justice policy. It is important to understand what they are currently doing so there isn't an overlap. I am surprised there aren't more NGOs on these calls. This has been an important exercise for me.
- Wasserman, LVEJO- We are not looking to give people new programming. We need to see if there is space for change. This call is a great opportunity to be in dialogue with agencies. The questionnaires were enlightening for me. Maybe it is a question of making the existing framework stronger.

- Messina, IERG- This process was very necessary.
- Wasserman, LVEJO- There is crucial information that needs to go to the Commission for feedback. We can't just bring it up for discussion if we aren't going to dive in. I will do my part and have a robust conversation with non-agency Commissioners, with the understanding that this is a good start.
- Delano, IDOT- We need to have an aggressive outreach effort to the agencies.
- Wasserman, LVEJO- I will pull non-agency folks aside during the full Commission meeting. There will be a commitment to a conference call. This is part of their work as Commissioners. Because there is no sub-committee chair this is my responsibility. This is a rare opportunity for us let's make sure something comes from this.
- Tomford, DCEO- Dr. Washington alluded to people being intimidated. Maybe we should elevate this conversation to a full Commission issue.
- Wasserman, LVEJO- Part of full Commission meeting agenda was to report where the sub-committees are. We will not just review subcommittee summaries but pull out action points and spend some time speaking about it.
- Page, IEPA- I will put this on the agenda for the full Commission meeting.
- Mitchell, IDPH- Full Commission will provide direction for subcommittees. Minimum expectation of all state agencies is to promote environmental justice.
- Wasserman, LVEJO- We have a solid plan on our end. At the full Commission meeting I will set the feedback meeting and we will also set the next agency oversight subcommittee meeting.

VI. Discussions/Presentations:

VII. Next meeting date and location

Next subcommittee meeting will be scheduled at the full Commission meeting on March 20, 2014.

VIII. Adjournment

12:46 p.m.